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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

July 29, 1947

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TO ALL STATE DIRECTORS OF EXTENSION

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #21

The possibility of the Congress passing new farm labor legislation continued into the closing days of the present session. The Congressional Record for Friday, July 25, 1947, pages 10,374 to 10,383 records more than 2 hours of debate over the Senate Appropriations Committee proposal to strike out the funds in the Supplemental Appropriation Bill (H. R. 4268) to finance the farm placement activities of the U. S. and State employment services during the period January 1 to June 30, 1948 and instead to make an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to continue the domestic farm labor aspect of Public Law 229 for another 6 months. Legislative action involving supervision of the Senate rules was required. The motion to suspend the rules was lost so the Senate Appropriations Committee proposal did not come up for a direct vote. The situation remains just as outlined in my letter of July 22, 1947. The Emergency Farm Labor Program of the Extension Service ends on December 31, 1947 with 30 days thereafter to complete liquidation.

Federal Farm Labor Camps. On July 24, 1947 I sent you a copy of the legislation passed by both Houses of Congress (H. R. 4254), delaying final liquidation of federal farm labor camps until June 30, 1949 and directing that no camps shall be operated after January 30, 1948 "....except under contractual arrangements with responsible public, or semipublic agencies, or nonprofit associations of farmers...."

Foreign labor. Congressman Anderson of California introduced H. R. 4348 on July 24 "To facilitate the admission of foreign workers desiring to perform agricultural work in the United States". The wording is almost identical with Sect. 9 of H. R. 3367 which was never reported out by the House Committee on Agriculture.

Contracts with Employment Service. It is quite possible that in some states the employment service may attempt to pressure the State Extension Service to contract with the State employment service for the conduct of the farm labor program during the closing months of 1947. Such arrangements would complicate the liquidation of the domestic farm labor program and are not desirable.

Caution. Section 2 farm labor funds allocated to State Extension Services cannot be used to finance foreign labor activities being discontinued by the Labor Branch due to lack of funds. All foreign labor functions except certification of need and placement are the sole responsibility of the Labor Branch, PMA.

The farm labor supervisors of the 8 south central states will meet at Memphis, Tennessee, on August 7-8 to consider farm labor supply and need for the fall harvest period.

The writer will attend the meeting of Directors of Extension of Western States to be held at Corvallis, Oregon, August 4-7.

Yours very truly,

Meredith C. Wilson

Meredith C. Wilson
Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program

cc: State supervisors)

